



WIC Vendor News

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WIC TIPS:

- * Be sure to process each check as a separate transaction. This will help with writing the correct amount purchased on the correct WIC check used.
- * **Suggestion:** Write the check number on each receipt as it is processed. This may help the bookkeeper match the items on the receipt to the items on the check to ensure the correct items are purchased in the correct quantity.
- * An order form for vendor materials is new on the KANSAS WIC VENDOR web site. If you need something, please send in an order and we will mail it to you.



PROPOSAL TO UPDATE WIC FOOD PACKAGES

Washington, 4 August 2006 – The National WIC Association, NWA, applauds Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns and USDA's Food & Nutrition Service for the release of their proposal today to update the food packages for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, known as WIC.

Since the WIC Program's inception in 1974 changes to the WIC food packages have been minimal. This proposal represents the most significant and meaningful changes ever proposed and ensures that the food packages will be consistent with the 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the current infant feeding practice guidelines of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

The USDA published the proposal on-line on Monday August 7, 2006.

"Despite the 32 year wait, we could not be more excited with USDA's release today of its proposal to update the WIC Food Packages to include for the first time fruits and vegetables! NWA, has pushed for these changes for nearly a decade to help WIC play its part in fighting the nation's obesity epidemic," offered Peggy Lewis, NWA President.

"The inclusion of fruits and vegetables and a wider variety of foods to increase cultural acceptability and intakes of nutrients and the inclusion of whole-grain products are the critical tools WIC needs in the Food Packages to reinforce the nutrition education messages we give mothers and children in WIC clinics!" she continued. "This proposal brings the WIC Food Packages in line with current dietary science."

"It has been six years since NWA proposed to Congress and the USDA many of these same changes to the WIC Food Packages. Three years later we called on Congress and USDA to recognize the need for culturally sensitive

foods," said Ms. Lewis. "In April 2005, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) mirroring many of NWA's recommendations issued a report entitled: 'WIC Food Packages: Time for Change.'"

"The time for a change is NOW," Ms. Lewis added, "and we urge speedy implementation of the proposal."

To qualify to receive WIC food packages valued at roughly \$38 per month and the accompanying nutrition education, mothers and children up to age five must meet income guidelines set at 185% of poverty and demonstrate a nutritional risk.

"Each qualified mother and child is prescribed a specific food package based upon their dietary needs and given food vouchers for the foods in that package," stated NWA Executive Director, the Rev. Douglas Greenaway. "These vouchers are then redeemed at certified grocery retailers in the community."

"We have waited 32 years for the WIC food packages to include fruits and vegetables and to respond to the diverse cultural populations WIC serves and we look forward to partnering with USDA and the retail grocers to ensure that these recommendations are implemented in a responsible and meaningful way," Greenaway added.

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, known as WIC has an over 30 year scientifically documented track record of improving the nutritional health and well-being of low-income, nutritionally at-risk women, infants and children.

(Cont'd on back page)

MEAD JOHNSON DISCONTINUING NEXT STEP PROSOBEE LIPIL

The WIC State Agency has been notified by Mead Johnson that Next Step ProSobee LIPIL in the 12 oz. containers of powder will be discontinued in September. Next Step ProSobee LIPIL will continue to be available in 24 oz. containers of powder. New checks containing the 24 oz. containers will be created and issued to clients no later than September 4, 2006. Clients may substitute one 24 oz container for two 12 oz containers until all checks listing 12 oz containers have been switched out.

VENDOR PROCEDURE MANUAL

In September of 2005, all vendors were provided a 3-ring binder that included their Vendor Procedures Manual for 2006 . There will be an updated Vendor Procedures Manual sent out again in September of 2006. Please be sure to read it carefully as many of the policies and procedures have been updated.

Some updates include a revised sanctioning system for WIC program violations, a new probationary status for newly authorized vendors and more defined check reimbursement procedures. You can expect this manual in late September.

MONITORING VISITS AND TRAINING COMPLETED!!

Many of you have been visited by your Local Agency Health Departments these past couple months as they worked hard to complete the monitoring and training requirements for the year. To provide a bit of background as to why these visits and trainings are conducted, we can look to the federal regulations for the WIC program.

In order for the Kansas WIC program to continue receiving funds from the USDA, vendors must be monitored and trained every year. We are hoping to have interactive training modules completed next year so that training can be com-

pleted at the cashier's pace. This will also help save time in the vendor and Local Agency staff member's day.

Monitoring will still need to be completed, but there will be no more questions about gross annual sales for everyone. The State Agency will be sending out forms to collect information to ensure the information in our system is correct.

Thank you for all your help in providing needed information and working with the local WIC staff to get these requirements met in a timely fashion!

PROPOSAL TO UPDATE WIC FOOD PACKAGES (CON'T)

"WIC serves roughly one out of every two infants born in this country," Ms. Lewis stated, "and is responsible for improving birth outcomes, reducing levels of anemia, increasing immunization rates and improving access to regular health care and improving the diets of WIC participants."

Among the USDA proposals were the addition of:

- fresh, processed or combined fruits and vegetables for children and women;
- baby foods including meats for fully breast-fed infants, and fruits and vegetables to the packages for all infants 6-11 months of age;
- alternatives to milk including calcium-set tofu, and calcium and vitamin D-rich soy beverage;
- canned or dried legumes; and canned beans or peas as an alternative to dried legumes;
- canned fish choices (salmon, sardines).
- whole wheat bread or other whole grain options;

reductions in:

- infant formula for partially breast-fed infants and for fully formula fed infants 6-11 months;
- the quantity of eggs;
- milk for children and women;

- juice for children and women; and

the elimination of:

- juice for all infants, substituting baby food fruits and vegetables; and
- whole milk for participants age 2 and older.

NWA represents the 50 geographic state agencies, 37 Indian and Native American, territory, trust and commonwealth state agencies and 2,200 local agencies who together provide WIC services to 8 million women, infants and children monthly through 10,000 WIC clinics nationwide.

NWA is dedicated to providing leadership to the WIC Community in promoting quality nutrition services; advocating for services for all eligible women, infants and children; and assuring the sound and responsive management of the WIC Program.

To read and provide comment on the Proposed Rule, go to www.fns.usda.gov/wic/regspublished/foodpackagesrevisions-proposedrule.htm.